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# ENG 1001-006: Composition and Language

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English 1001G—Composition & Language  
 Spring 2001  
 sec 006 MWF 11-11:50 CH340/306

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Office hours: MWF 10-11 and  
 TTh 9-15-11:00  
 or by appointment

texts:

*The Blair Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*

*The Prentice Hall Reader, 5<sup>th</sup> ed*

*The Student Writer: Editor and Critic, 4<sup>th</sup> ed*

*Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary*

*English Online: A Student's Guide to the Internet and World Wide Web*

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In English 1001G you will write as well as read expressive, expository, and argumentative essays of varying length. The reading and writing will take place both in and outside of class. During the semester we'll focus on learning how to organize, articulate, and develop your thoughts clearly and effectively. You will write at least one paper that will involve use and documentation of outside sources, and you will also participate in at least one collaborative writing assignment.

There will be quizzes given on the reading material. The frequency of these quizzes can, in part, be controlled by you. If, through discussion, writing assignments, etc., it appears that you are reading and thinking about the assigned material, the number of quizzes will decrease. Slack off on the reading, however, and back come the quizzes....

### COMPUTER INFO

This particular section of English 1001G is computer-assisted; some of the reading and much of the writing will be performed on Gateway computers in Coleman Hall room 340. In this lab we will be using **Word** and **Windows 98**. During the first week of class you will need to get a **formatted 3 1/2" IBM-compatible high-density (HD) disk**, upon which you will copy, store information, and write essays. You should also have at least one or two more of these disks to use to back up your work. Bringing your disk to class each day will be as essential as bringing pens, notebooks, etc. to your other classes.

It is very important that you check your syllabus each day to determine which room you're supposed to be in. We spend one week in the computer lab ( room

340)and one week in the regular classroom (room 306). I tried to set it up so that we will be in the computer lab on the days when you are scheduled to work on rough drafts, do peer editing, etc.

This semester we will learn "basic" computer information such as how to use the Word program, how to save or copy assignments and papers, how to convert files,etc. We will also perform computer-assisted research. **It is important to note, however, that this is, first and foremost, an English course.** The computer technology will be an important asset to the course , certainly, but our primary focus will be based on strengthening your writing.

Please be aware that we may encounter occasional unavoidable technology - related problems and as a result may have to make sudden changes in the day's plan or in the syllabus.

If you are working outside this lab, remember to save all material as a Word document, or save it in Rich Text Format (RTF) in order to avoid conversion problems when you bring material to the classroom.

A few words about computer etiquette: please show respect and do not turn on/work on the computer unless I have said that the class could do so. Do not rush ahead of everyone ; and, most emphatically, pornography, game-playing, surfing the Net, catching up on your e-mail, etc. will absolutely not be tolerated while class is in session.

#### GRADING

I. NOTE: To pass English 1001G, you must have a grade of A, B, or C at the end of the semester. Anything below constitutes a mark of "NC" ("no credit") and will result in you having to retake the course.

NOTE: An "NC" is not factored into your semester or cumulative GPA. For example, an "A" would count as a 4.0, a "B" as a 3.0, and so on, but an NC would simply show that you took the class but did not pass/did not receive credit.

II. In my class the final grade will be determined like this:

20% on quizzes and short homework assignments

10% on class participation

70% on essays (the first week's diagnostic essay is not graded. The research paper is worth 20%, as is the final argument paper. The other three essays are 10% each)

III. You will have the option of revising ONE of your first three essays. I will average the grade from the original with the grade on the revision. This new grade will replace the original or first grade. (e.g. if on Essay # 3 you first receive a C, and on the revision you get an A, the final grade for Essay # 3 is a B.)

IV. I use the Standards For Evaluating Themes at Eastern Illinois University, a copy of which will be given to you. We will review and discuss these standards before your first graded essay is due, as well as throughout the semester.

V. You **MUST** turn in a research paper in order to be considered for a passing or a failing grade. Please understand that **simply turning in a research paper does not guarantee a passing grade**. Failure to turn in a research paper will automatically result in a grade of NC for the semester.

VI. If you fail to turn in one of the non-research essays and do not have a legitimate excuse, the grade for that assignment will consist of two F's instead of one; I don't think it's fair to give equal grades to someone who at least attempted the assignment but may have had problems, and someone who didn't even bother to make the effort.

#### ATTENDANCE AND LATE WORK

Attendance and participation are very important; this is not strictly a lecture class. I expect you to be prepared to discuss and question the material covered in class and in your writing and reading. If you are unable to attend class due to illness or other legitimate excuse (e.g. a true emergency, unsafe travel condition for commuters—not those walking from the dorms!—or participation in a recognized University-sponsored activity for which I have been notified in advance), **it is your responsibility to contact me about make-up work**. If you miss several consecutive classes and I don't hear from you, I have to assume that a) you have fallen off the face of the earth and therefore will receive a failing grade, or b) that you have dropped the class. **I will accept late work** (homework and essays) **only if you have an excused absence**—that is, a legitimate illness or situation such as the aforementioned.

I do give you the option of turning in **ONE** non-research essay of your choice one class day late. For example, if the essay is due on Wed. I will accept on Fri. but no later. Other than this one instance, I will not accept late work unless you have an excused absence. Quizzes are given at the start of class, so be on time, as these cannot be made up unless you have the excused absence. Please note that oversleeping and rides going home for the weekend are **NOT** excused absences!

#### CONFERENCES

Twice this semester there will be mandatory individual conferences during which we'll discuss your writing, progress, grade, etc. They will be held near midterm time and during work on the research paper. We will not meet for class on conference days.



**NOTE:** I encourage you to schedule an appointment or just stop by my office throughout the semester if you have questions or difficulties with an assignment. You may phone me at home --at a reasonable hour!--if you can't reach me at the office. I truly enjoy getting to know my students.

### **ESSAYS**

Essays are to be done on computer. At the start of the semester, you will need to print out a copy of your essay to hand in to me. As the semester progresses, I may grade your essays off disks; stay tuned for announcements. Papers need to be double-spaced with one-inch margins. You will need to include a separate audience analysis page at the end of the paper. The essay also needs to have a (creative!) title as well as your name, the date, and essay number. **Essays are due at the beginning of class and are to be printed before you arrive at class, not during class.**

Any essay that includes information from an outside source(s) must follow current MLA rules for documenting that information, whether the information has been paraphrased or taken verbatim from the source. Failure to cite outside information and/or failure to use MLA guidelines when doing so will result in a grade of "F" for the assignment. Information about MLA guidelines, documenting, etc. can be found in your *Blair Handbook* and will be covered in class discussion and assignments.

### **FIU POLICY ON PLAGIARISM**

"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work"--has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

### **FINAL EXAM**

Yahoo! There is no final exam in 1001C! We will not meet for class during finals week.

### **WRITING CENTER**

Occasionally I may refer you to the Writing Center, located at 301 Coleman Hall. The trained English graduate assistants are there to help you--free of charge (who ever said that nothing in life is free?)--with grammar, punctuation, and essay problems. **THEY ARE NOT PROOFREADERS.**

### **DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES**

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please let me know about it; you should also contact the

Coordinator of the Office of Student Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

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### COURSE SYLLABUS

Please note: Assignments are to be completed by the date on which they appear on the syllabus. This is a tentative syllabus; changes may be made as needed throughout the semester. Bring book(s) to class if requested or if a reading assignment is due that day.

SW = *The Student Writer*  
PH = *The Prentice Hall Reader*

#### WEEK ONE-CH340

M(1/9): course introduction, policies  
W(1/11): in-class diagnostic writing sample  
F(1/13): generating ideas, audience. Read SW pp 3-22

#### WEEK TWO-CH306

M(1/15): MLK jr. birthday—no school  
W(1/17): thesis. Read SW pp 31-37  
F(1/19): paragraphs. Read SW pp 41-47

#### WEEK THREE-CH340

M(1/22): description. Read SW "The Kitchen" pp 135-138 and "Mexican House" pp 139-140  
W(1/24): classification, division, and analysis. Read PH pp 177-182 and PH "What's In Your Toothpaste" pp 187-190  
F(1/26): Read "The Rhetoric of advertising". Discuss essay # 1

#### WEEK FOUR-CH306

M(1/29): discuss revising and editing approaches  
W(1/31): work in class on draft of Essay # 1  
F(2/2) (happy groundhog day) in-class group/peer editing of essay #1. Bring enough copies of essay for group members

#### WEEK FIVE-CH340

M(2/5): ESSAY # 1 DUE. Begin comparison/contrast. Read SW pp 226-229 & SW "A Fable For Tomorrow" pp 229-231.  
W(2/7): Read PH "That Lean and Hungry Look" pp 243-245. Discuss essay #2  
F(2/9): turn in proposal for Essay # 2 subtopics. Work on Essay # 2 in class

#### WEEK SIX-CH306

M(2/12): group/peer editing of essay # 2 draft. Bring copies for group members  
W(2/14) (happy Valentine's day) ESSAY # 2 DUE. Discuss essay # 3/profile  
Assignment. Read "Soup" essay (handed out in class)  
F(2/16): Lincoln's birthday. No school

#### WEEK SEVEN-CH340

M(2/19): discuss profile assignment. Read "Last Stop" (handed out in class)  
W(2/21): profile proposal due. Discuss paraphrase and quoting. Bring Blair  
Handbook to class.  
F(2/23): Introductions and conclusions.

#### WEEK EIGHT-CH306

M(2/26): colons, semi-colons, etc. Sign up for conferences  
W(2/28): No class today. Instead, meet in my office (339C) for mandatory  
midterm conferences. Bring draft/notes etc. for essay # 3  
F(3/2): No class. Conferences.

#### WEEK NINE-CH340

M(3/5): No class. Conferences  
W(3/7): No class. Conferences  
F(3/9): ESSAY # 3 DUE. Library tour/computer research day

#### WEEK TEN

3/12-3/16 SPRING BREAK!!

#### WEEK ELEVEN-CH306

M(3/19): discuss collaborative research project (aka essay # 4)  
W(3/21): research, using sources, etc. Bring Blair Handbook to class  
F(3/23): turn in tentative group proposal. Discuss MLA style. Bring Blair

#### WEEK TWELVE-CH340

M(3/26): in-class research day  
W(3/28): works cited exercise. Bring Blair  
F(3/30): in-class work on notetaking etc. First progress check

#### WEEK THIRTEEN-CH306

M(4/2): in-class work. Progress check. Conference sign-up  
W(4/4): no class. Group conferences in my office. Bring required materials  
F(4/6): conferences

#### WEEK FOURTEEN-CH340

M(4/9): conferences  
W(4/11): conferences



F(4/13): Class resumes. ESSAY # 4 DUE. Discuss APA citation style

WEEK FIFTEEN-CH306
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M(4/16): begin argument, persuasion

W(4/18): induction, deduction, fallacies. Read SW pp 314-318

F(4/20): read SW "Indian Bones" pp 319-320 and PH "Getting High School Science in Order" pp 440-444

WEEK SIXTEEN-CH340
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M(4/23): in-class work on essay # 5

W(4/25): group/peer editing of essay 5. Bring copies

F(4/27): Essay # 5 DUE. Last class day

Note: There is no final exam in English 1001. We will not meet for class during finals week.